ration, (iv) strengthening of social marketing and community based distribution programmes for contraceptives. (v) signicantly expanding the role and participation of private sector and NGOs, (vi) evolving strong institutional mechanisms for comprehensive monitoring, assessment and operational research, (vii) supporting training activities of service-providers and (viii) evolving models for diffusion of innovative approaches that will have wide applicability throughout India especially in the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

(c) Suggestions/comments from various organisations and experts engaged in the task in the Uttar Pradesh State would be taken into account in the process of project development.

AIDS virus in Vijayawada

1000. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express dated 17th February, 1992 under the caption "AIDS virus has the last laugh in Vijayawada";

(b) if so, whether Government have obtained details of this state of affairs in Vijayawada;

(c) what is the exact position in Vijayawada with regard to AIDS;

(d) what specific steps are being taken to attend to the problem there; and

(e) what is the reaction of Andhra Pradesh Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes. The Government has seen the news article in the question.

(b) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the house.

Technology mission on population

1001. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a technology mission on population and also introduction of a National Movement for Population Control (NMPC);

(b) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that several organisations including PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry have also communicated similar views to the Government for population control; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to set up a Technology Mission on Population Control. It is felt that considering the multi-dimensional and complex nature of the population problem involving deep-rooted personal beliefs, attitudinal and socio-cultural factors, a Technology Mission approach to the problem would not be feasible.

For the success of the Population Control active involvement of all sections of the people in the programme is of vital importance. Transforming the population control programme into a national movement requires a broad national concensus and commitment of people in all strata of the society. During the past few months, concrete steps have been taken to have a national consensus to meet the challenge of stabilising the population growth in the country. These are summarised below:—

(i) The population problem was discussed in the last meeting of the National Development Council (NDC) where there was unanimity that population control should be kept above